

**The Federal Diary**

# Law Enforcement Pension Liberalized



By  
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The government's 40,000 law enforcement personnel and firefighters can now retire on full pension at age 50 after 20 years of service.

Public Law 93-350, signed by the President late Friday, authorizes the permanent early retirement bonus, and eligible employees who quit between now and the end of the year won't have to pay extra for it in the form of higher pension plan contributions.

Under the retirement system in effect until Mr. Nixon signed the bill, law enforcement aides and firefighters had the option of retiring at age 50 after 20 years service if their agency and the Civil Service Commission approved. They also had their lifetime annuities reduced substantially for every year they were under age 55. That is all changed by the new law, a benefit other for certain to demand from the next Congress.

The new legislation has vari-

ous effective dates, even though Mr. Nixon signed it July 12. Highlights of the new bill, and the effective date for each:

- It authorizes but does not require the head of each agency to fix minimum and maximum age limits for law enforcement personnel and firefighters effective July 12, 1974.

- The requirement that CSC approve the early retirement is eliminated as of July 12.

- Beginning January, 1978, law enforcement personnel and firefighters will be mandatorily separated at age 55 with 20 years service, except,

- Agency heads are authorized to exempt some individuals from mandatory retirement until age 60, if the 5-year extension is in the "public interest."

- Now (as of July 12) all employees in the law enforcement-firefighter category may retire under the 50-20 formula with no reduction in annuity because they are less than 55 years old.

- Effective January, 1975, law enforcement personnel and firefighters will begin paying more into the civil service retirement fund to finance the new benefit. Those workers, effective January 1, 1975, will pay 7 per cent of gross annual salary into the fund, and their agencies pay a matching 7 per

cent. Next January, the agency and employee mandatory rate will go up to 7.5 per cent each.

- Effective July 12, 1974, the new formula permits the eligible employee to compute his or her retirement on the basis of 2½ per cent of the high-three year average salary times 20 years. Service over 20 years will be computed at the 2 per cent level. It would work this way:

- A \$10,000 a year law enforcement aide or firefighter would multiply 2½ per cent times his first 20 years of service, to get 50 per cent, or an annual pension of \$5,000. If that employee had three years of service beyond age 50, he or she would multiply 2 per cent times the three years, getting six per cent, or \$600 additional, for a total annuity of \$5,600 a year.

- Premium pay for irregular, unscheduled overtime is included as part of basic pay, for the first time, for the purposes of computing an annuity. This new benefit applies to law enforcement personnel. Federal firefighters, paid under the wage board (blue collar) system already have overtime compensation. The effective date on this is still a question mark, as federal officials still are trying to deter-

mine the congressional intent.

To be eligible for the new early retirement benefit, the law defines the estimated 41,000 persons as individuals "whose primary duties are the investigation, apprehension or detention of persons suspected of federal crimes, or the control or extinguishment of fires. . ."

**Army Material Command:** Officials say we missed the mark yesterday in airing a secret government-industry set of 270 proposals which include, among other things, the sale or lease of the AMC Tank Automotive Command to either Chrysler or General Motors. While such a proposal is being studied, AMC confirms, it would involve the AMC tank factory in Detroit rather than the much larger tank command next door.

The government-contractor survey of AMC recommends, as we reported, the shift of work between some arsenals and the phase-out of work at many which it says are "underutilized." If the sale or lease plan is approved by the Pentagon, the tank plant would be turned over to whichever giant automaker wins the contract to build the XM-1 Army battle tank. Chrysler now manages the plant which is owned by the government.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

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HR 9281

U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, receiving further testimony from the nominee.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

#### NOMINATION

*Committee on Post Office and Civil Service:* Committee, in executive session, ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robert E. Holding, of Wyoming, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service.

#### CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

*Committee on Post Office and Civil Service:* Committee concluded hearings on H.R. 6078, extending provisions of law relating to civil service retirement of certain employees engaged in hazardous occupations to customs and immigration inspectors; and H.R. 9281, to provide improved retirement benefits for Federal law enforcement and firefighting personnel, after receiving testimony from Senators Percy and Dole; Representative Brasco; Thomas A. Tinsley, Director, Bureau of Retirement, Insurance, and Occupational Health, Civil Service Commission; John Ryan, Federal Criminal Investigators' Association, Bristol, Conn.; W. H. McClenon, who was accompanied by Jack A. Waller and Fred Schillreff, all representing the International Association of Firefighters, Washington, D.C.; Eugene Rosides, Washington, D.C.; Joseph Gamble, Washington, D.C.; Clyde M. Webber, who was accompanied by Carl Sadler and James H. Lynch, Jr., all representing the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, Washington, D.C.; Nathan Wolkomir, National Federation of Federal Employees, Washington, D.C.; John J. Murphy, National Customs Association, Washington, D.C.; Mary Gereau, representing the National Treasury Employees' Union, Washington, D.C.; Ordway P. Burden, New York City; and Edward J. Kiernan, International Conference of Police Associations, Washington, D.C.

#### WATER PROJECTS

*Committee on Public Works:* Subcommittee on Water Resources concluded hearings on three bills, after receiving testimony as follows:

S. 2668, to modify the project for the Falls Dam and Reservoir, Neuse River, N.C., with testimony from Senator Helms; Dr. Arthur W. Cooper, Department of Natural and Economic Resources, State of North Carolina, Raleigh; Mayor Clarence Lightner, of Raleigh; Mayor pro tempore Nathan Yelton, of Garner, N.C.; Mayor Fredrick Bond, of Cary, N.C.; and Howard E. Manning, Raleigh;

S. 3141, authorizing construction of the Clinton Parkway, Douglas County, Kans., with testimony from Senators Pearson and Dole; Walter Cragan, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Kans.; Mayor Jack Rose, of Lawrence, Kans.; and Chuck Fisher, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Kans.; and

S. 3262, to provide a facility for a whitewater canoe-kayak slalom course adjacent to the site of Captain Meldahl locks and dam, Ohio River, with testimony from Senator Taft; and Mrs. Robert McEwan, U.S. Olympic Kayak and Canoe Committee.

Also, committee received testimony on these bills from Brig. Gen. James L. Kelly, Deputy Director, and Irvin Reisler, Chief, Planning Division, both of the Office of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers.

#### PAPERWORK BURDEN

*Select Committee on Small Business:* Committee resumed hearings on the Federal paperwork burden, receiving testimony from Howard Schulte, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; Laurence C. Brown, Cove-Craft, Inc., Laconia, N.H.; and Charles O. Strickler, Rocco, Inc., Harrisonburg, Va.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Bills Introduced:** 53 public bills, H.R. 14332-14384; 2 private bills, H.R. 14385 and 14386; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 986, H. Con. Res. 481, and H. Res. 1059-1061, were introduced.

Pages H 3195-H 3197

**Bill Reported:** One report was filed as follows: H.R. 8193, to require that a percentage of U.S. oil imports be carried on U.S.-flag vessels, amended (H. Rept. 93-1003).

Page H 3195

**Late Report:** Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries received permission to file a report by midnight tonight on H.R. 8193, to require that a percentage of U.S. oil imports be carried on U.S.-flag vessels.

Page H 3093

**Presidential Message—Foreign Aid:** Received and read a message from the President wherein he proposes foreign aid legislation—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 93-293).

Pages H 3094-H 3096

**Military Pay:** By a voice vote, the House agreed to the conference report on S. 2771, to revise the special pay bonus structure relating to members of the Armed Forces, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages H 3096-H 3097

**Arms Control and Disarmament Authorization:** By a voice vote, the House passed H.R. 12799, to authorize appropriations for the Arms Control and Disarmament Act.

Agreed to the first three committee amendments.

Rejected the fourth committee amendment that sought to require arms control impact statements (rejected by a recorded vote of 152 ayes to 239 noes).

Pages H 3097-H 3108

**Civil Service Annuitants:** By a ye-and-nay vote of 296 yeas to 102 nays with 3 voting "present," the House passed S. 628, to eliminate the annuity reduction made, in order to provide a surviving spouse with an annuity, during periods when the annuitant is not married.

Agreed to the committee amendment;

Agreed to an amendment to the committee amendment that extends coverage to a spouse married for a total of 1 year to the employee at the time of retirement and the time of death; and

Agreed to amend the title of the bill.

H. Res. 1010, the rule under which the bill was considered was agreed to earlier by a ye-and-nay vote of 363 yeas to 30 nays with 2 voting "present."

Pages H 3111-H 3119

**Public Safety Officers' Benefits:** By a ye-and-nay vote of 320 yeas to 54 nays, the House passed H.R. 11321, to provide benefits to survivors of certain public safety officers who die in the performance of duty.

Rejected a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary (rejected by a recorded vote of 77 ayes to 300 noes).

Agreed to the committee amendments.

Rejected:

A substitute amendment that contains the provisions of H.R. 6449;

An amendment that sought to make the bill effective on the date of enactment in lieu of October 11, 1972 (rejected by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 191 noes); and

An amendment that sought to require the Federal Government to pay a gratuity equal to that provided by a State or local government not to exceed a combined total of \$50,000 (rejected by a division vote of 48 ayes to 107 noes).

Subsequently, this passage was vacated and S. 15, a similar Senate-passed bill was passed in lieu after being amended to contain the language of the House bill as passed. Agreed to amend the title of the Senate bill.

H. Res. 1056, the rule under which the bill was considered, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote.

Pages H 3119-H 3150

**Referrals:** Two Senate-passed measures were referred to the appropriate House committees.

Page H 3195

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One quorum call, three ye-and-nay votes, and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H3096, H3107, H3109, H3118-H3119, H3145, and H3147-H3148.

**Program for Thursday:** Met at noon and adjourned at 7:44 p.m. until noon on Thursday, April 25, when the House will consider H.R. 13999, National Science Foundation authorization (open rule, 1 hour of debate);

H.R. 13998, National Aeronautics and Space Administration authorization (open rule, 1 hour of debate); and H.R. 11989, Fire Prevention and Control Act (open rule, 1 hour of debate).

### Committee Meetings

#### COTTON MARKETING SYSTEM

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Cotton continued hearings on the Nation's cotton marketing system with testimony from public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

#### PEANUT PROGRAM

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Oilseeds and Rice held a hearing on the peanut program and heard testimony from public witnesses.

#### DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on military personnel, Navy.

#### HEW APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor-HEW continued hearings on 1975 HEW items.

#### AGRICULTURE—ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Agriculture—Environmental and Consumer Protection held a hearing with testimony from Members of Congress and public witnesses.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Military Construction continued hearings on Department of the Navy.

#### PUBLIC WORKS—AEC

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Public Works-AEC continued hearings with Members of Congress and public witnesses.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on State, Justice, Commerce, and Judiciary held a hearing on the Department of State.

#### TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Urban Mass Transit Administration.

#### TREASURY APPROPRIATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held a hearing on the Administrative Conference of the United States.